

FLORIDA JCI SENATE
Chambers
VOL 55 | ISSUE 3 **24-25**
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The countdown has begun! In less than four weeks, we will be celebrating our **55th Anniversary**. I cannot stress enough the importance of submitting your registration before the **January 30th deadline**. Even sooner, you must book your room at the Holiday Inn – Orlando SW Celebration by **January 23rd** before the room block is released. We are anticipating a huge turnout, so please make every effort to attend, as there will be surprises at the Saturday night banquet. **Jaci Newmark #56368** and her committee have been working tirelessly to make this event a success.

The Florida JCI Senate made its annual trip to Rodeheaver Boys Camp on Pearl Harbor Day. **Melanie Fickas #77281** did a fantastic job organizing and presenting gifts to the boys. The Jacksonville Jaycees also participated, providing additional gifts. Along with the gifts, the Florida JCI Senate gave each boy a \$50 gift card. Special thanks to **Cindy Brandel #54928** and Team Tampa for their \$1,000 donation to the Jaycees Cottage, which was presented during the luncheon. All in all, Melanie ran a successful project and hopes to continue it next year.

This newsletter includes a report from Future Directions. **Ken Nadeau #39452** and his committee made strong observations and recommendations. Please take the time to read this report, as we will discuss some of the recommendations at the membership meeting.

At the start of our membership meeting, the President's Pet Project speaker will announce who they are and describe the services they provide to Florida's citizens. This quarter, the chosen organization is the Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida, a 501(c)(3) organization. Our sheriffs will



PRESIDENT

Michael Sawyer #36403
mikesf3@gmail.com

MANAGEMENT VP

Amelia Harrison #62082
aaharrison@aol.com

ADMINISTRATION VP

TREASURER

Don Duffy #78415
dduffy3131@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Lynn Whalen #44712
gmalynn53@yahoo.com

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Jaci Newmark #56368
jci56368@outlook.com

FL JCI



Senate Website

be on the lookout to fine Senators for infractions during the meeting—so stay alert! Wreaths Across America was held on December 14, and I had the honor of attending the ceremony at the Tallahassee National Cemetery with **Steve #27073 and Dawne #68900 Sutherland**. We were honored to have our NVP, **Carla Baily #62624**, join us. Afterward, we shared a meal at Sonny's BBQ, and I would like to thank the Sutherlands for their wonderful hospitality.

Region 8 held a social on December 22 at Tara Golf and Country Club. I had heard wonderful things about this venue and was pleased to finally experience it myself. I appreciated the fine hospitality and the thoughtful gifts from "Santa"—thankfully, no lumps of coal this year!

Next, I attended the Region 13 Pinball Social at the Silverball Pinball Museum, which was an absolute blast. The museum takes you on a nostalgic trip back in time, with machines you may have forgotten even existed. Thank you to everyone who made this event so enjoyable.

On January 3, 2025, I had the privilege of representing Florida at **Alex "Hitman" Willis #34236's 75th birthday celebration in Atlanta**. It was wonderful to see so many friends gathered to wish Alex a happy birthday.

The Big Easy was the site of the Winter Board Meeting, and Florida was well represented. During the meeting, Senators running for national office were announced, and the Iowa Senators did a fabulous job organizing the event.

My upcoming travels include representing Florida at the Alabama JCI Senate Meeting in Gulf Shores from January 17-19 and the North Carolina Meeting in Raleigh-Durham later this quarter.

Please don't forget to purchase Sweepstakes tickets and Region IV tickets, as the latter helps fund NVP expenses.

I owe an apology to President **Kay Elliott #61747** and the Florida Foundation. In the last Mentors newsletter, it was mistakenly reported that the proceeds from Grinchmas would go to the USJCI Senate Foundation. It should have stated that the funds would go to the Florida JCI Senate Foundation, where over \$1,400 was raised. The article was dictated from my hospital bed, and I regret the confusion.

Lastly, we need to focus on membership, as we dropped 10 members last quarter. Please reach out to non-active Senators and encourage them to rejoin one of the greatest organizations. **Jim Warren #42572** will be providing a seminar at the conference to inspire and guide us in recruiting new members. Let's finish the year on a positive note! **If you know anyone deserving of the Medallion, please let me know.**



Management Report

Amelia Harrison #62082
Management VP

Greetings Florida JCI Senate,

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the year! I've heard that everyone had a wonderful time at Grinchmas. I'm sorry I missed it, but I want to thank everyone who helped make the weekend a success and covered for me in my absence. A special shout-out to **Kathy Pumphrey** for stepping into my role that weekend—you were a lifesaver! I also appreciate those who assisted President Michael whenever needed.

I'm excited and looking forward to celebrating our **55th Anniversary** in February! Registration forms and hotel information are available on our website at fljcisenate.org. Agendas will also be posted on the website and Facebook soon. Please make sure to book your rooms and send in your registration forms as soon as possible, even if you plan to pay closer to the event. Accurate headcounts for the weekend and banquet are essential to ensure proper planning for food and drinks.

Our fundraiser this year is selling "Pick 3" sweepstakes tickets, with proceeds going back to the Florida JCI Senate. Many of you have already received tickets to sell, but I need everyone's help to make this a success. If you haven't received tickets and are willing to sell them, please let me know—I'll get them to you. The tickets can be sold until the end of March, and the drawings will take place every day in April when the Florida Pick 3 numbers are drawn. Winners will receive \$50, and if there's no winner for a particular night, the money will go to the Florida Senate.

Please bring your ticket stubs and the money for what you've sold to the February meeting, and I'll collect them there. Thank you to **Don Duffy and Irene Shanley** for already turning in a combined \$100 in sales! If you have any questions or need more tickets, feel free to contact me at aaharrison@aol.com or call 407-269-4378.

See you in February at the 55th Anniversary Celebration!

Warm regards,

Angela Harrison
Vice President, Florida JCI Senate



Treasurer's Report

Don Duffy #78415
Treasurer

Greetings, Everyone!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are off to a great start in the new year.

As we move past the halfway point of our year, it's exciting to note that our **55th Anniversary celebration** is just around the corner! I look forward to seeing many of you there—it's a milestone worth celebrating together.

A big shoutout to **Jim Warren and Nina Nadeau** for their outstanding work this year in driving growth and engaging our first-timers each quarter. Their efforts are truly appreciated and are helping to keep our organization thriving.

Speaking of thriving, let's not forget: **Our organization depends on your participation and continued membership.** As we approach March 1st and the close of our 3rd quarter, invoices have been sent out as a reminder to take care of your membership dues. Your support is what keeps us moving forward.

In closing, I wish you all a Happy New Year filled with good health and great memories. I look forward to seeing you soon. God Bless!



Secretary's Report

Lynn Whalen #44712
Secretary

From the look of pictures on Facebook, we were all blessed this holiday season. I can't explain how helpful and supportive your Communication Team has been during this year; they are truly keeping the pieces of the puzzle together. **Thank you, Kathy Collins, Kelly Koch, Irene Shanley, and Mindy Gallagher.**

I look forward to the 55th in February. I would also like to ask for assistance, **Bill (Willy) Orr** isn't able to attend but does have lots of interesting history items to display, so if anyone can assist me then we can follow Willy's chart to make sure it is all displayed. Also thinking of February and Valentine's Day. We all love our family and especially the four-legged ones.

In February, with Kelly's help, please share a single post of your pet on the JCI Senate Facebook page. Kelly and I will review and approve your post. This is Senate-related because our four-legged family members are such an important part of our lives, and we love them dearly!

Additionally, as one of President Sawyer's goals, **let's each reach out to an inactive senator and invite them to attend events throughout the rest of the year.**



Lynn Whalen #44712
Secretary 2024-2025
FL JCI Senate



COB Report

Jaci Newmark #56368
Chairman of the Board

The Time is Now!

At the 3rd Quarter Meeting on Friday night, we will hold our traditional “**Kissing of the Ring**” ceremony for all those stepping up to serve on the Executive Committee.

If you're ready to take on a leadership role in the Florida JCI Senate, don't wait! Submit your filing fee to State Treasurer **Don Duffy by Friday night**. The filing fees are:

- \$25 for Administrative VP, Management VP, Secretary, or Treasurer
- \$50 for State President

Once your fee is submitted, you will be eligible for an interview.

Take a moment to speak with your advisor about how you can contribute to the success of our great organization.

See you in Kissimmee!

Jaci Newmark #56368



Chaplain's Report

Kathy "Kat" Collins #64926
FL JCI Senate Chaplain

Dear Florida Senators,

I hope everyone enjoyed a beautiful Christmas and Hanukkah season! With the start of a new year comes new hopes and dreams—only you can make them happen. We're here to share your joys and offer support during challenges.

I love announcing weddings, births, and special family occasions! Please feel free to contact me at kc86auburn2@gmail.com to share your news, and I'll make sure it gets published.

Updates:

Mark Harrow #57862 is out of the hospital and recovering with his mom, **Emily Harrow**. Get Well cards can be sent to: 1999 Juana Road, Boca Raton, FL 33486

In Sympathy:

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of:

Tom Najjar #27708

Sympathy cards can be sent to Jeanne Najjar at:
3133 Lawton Ct., Panama City, FL 32405

Chris Kirschner #37544 (August 2024)

Sympathy cards can be sent to Darlene Kirschner at:
3842 Calico Ct., Lenoir, NC 28645



Please keep all our deceased Senators and their families in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

As part of the Florida JCI Senate 55th Anniversary celebration, we will also honor and remember our deceased Senators. I may be looking for photos to include in the tribute, so please respond if you can help.

Respectfully,

Kathy "Kat" Collins #64926
FL JCI Senate Chaplain

55th ANNIVERSARY

FLORIDA JCI SENATE



This is the final Chambers article leading up to our 55th Anniversary celebration in February at the 3rd Quarter Meeting.

All the details for the 55th Ann. event are available on the

“Florida JCI Senate 55th Anniversary” Facebook page and on our state website. Be sure to download the registration form and submit it today! We need all registrations as soon as possible so we can plan for gifts, surprises, and banquet seating. If you have a room reserved, please send in your registration. Let’s celebrate!

Join us in Kissimmee the weekend of February 14-16 for the 3rd Quarter Meeting and a spectacular 55th Anniversary banquet. Come together with past Presidents **Randy Avon, JB Keena, Al Dorsett, Jim Parker, Sharon Miller**, former National Presidents, and many of your fellow Senators to reminisce and honor our great organization. Let’s make this a celebration we’ll never forget – **THE TIME OF OUR LIVES!**

For more information, please contact me at jci56368@outlook.com

Jaci Newmark #56368
Chair, 55th Anniversary



Region 8

Scott Link #51911
Region 8 Director

Looking for fun and fellowship? Mark your calendars for these exciting upcoming events:

Saturday, January 18, 2025: 38th Annual Florida Manatee Festival

Kick off your weekend at the Florida Manatee Festival, running from 9 AM to 4 PM in Crystal River. This annual event is a celebration of Florida’s gentle giants and offers something for everyone. For more information, visit GoManateeFest.com. After the festival, join us at 4 PM for a get-together at Cody's Original Roadhouse (305 SE US Highway 19, Crystal River, FL 34429).

Saturday, February 22, 2025: Party at the Link’s House

Join us from 2 PM to 10 PM for a day of fun at 2294 Canfield Drive, Spring Hill, FL 34609. We’ll be serving rib-eye steaks, hot dogs, and burgers, along with soda and water. Feel free to bring your favorite dish to share and any stronger drinks you prefer. As the night rolls in, enjoy fireworks and a cozy campfire.

Important Notes:

- Don’t forget to bring a lawn chair!
- Be prepared to meet Candy, our friendly dog, who will expect lots of pets.
- Please RSVP to ensure we don’t overbuy rib-eye steaks.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Region 13

Catherine McManus #81988
Region 13 Director

Region 13 is looking forward to an exciting new year!

This past December, we had a nice holiday social at the Cheesecake Factory in Aventura. The Senators enjoyed the “best Christmas sweater” competition! Everyone had a fantastic time.

We have two upcoming socials. On Tuesday, January 21st at 7 p.m., we will be welcoming in the new year at the Olive Garden in Aventura (17985 Biscayne Blvd). On Saturday, March 1st at 6p.m, we have the nice honor of welcoming our JCI Senate President Michael Sawyer to South Florida, at P.F. Chang’s in Aventura!! (17455 Biscayne Blvd). We welcome other senators from across the state to attend our socials.

Region 13 has several socials/events planned through the first half of the year, and Catherine looks forward to growing Region 13!! Please check our JCI Senators of South Florida FB page. Catherine is busy reaching out to all of the senators in Region 13 – particularly those who have not joined the JCI Senate.

Save the Date

South
Florida

Tuesday 1/21 @ 7pm

Region 13 Social
Olive Garden in Aventura

Monday 1/29 @ 6:30pm

Region 12 Social
Texas Roadhouse in Coconut Creek



Region 12

Amy Kent #82550
Region 12 Director

Region 12 JCI Senators will gather for a dinner social at Texas Roadhouse on Monday, January 29th, at 6:30 PM. The restaurant is located at 5951 Lyons Road in Coconut Creek, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Additional events are being planned for the remainder of the year, and of course, we can’t wait to see everyone in February for more celebrations.

Happy New Year, everyone!





Future Directions Report

Ken Nadeau Future Directions Chair

Planning for the Future: Updates from the Future Directions Committee

The Future Directions Committee plays a vital role in shaping the long-term success of our organization. Meeting quarterly, this committee examines various topics aimed at helping us adapt to the evolving needs of our members. While the committee itself is a recommendation body, it stands ready to assist the Board of Directors should they choose to act on these ideas. As members, your input is highly valued. If you have suggestions or opinions on the topics discussed, please email me at kennadeau@aol.com.

Topics Discussed

1. Increasing Senator Involvement

- Mentorship Program: Assign mentors or buddies to new Senators to help them feel welcome and navigate the organization.
- Updating Contact Information: Work with Regional Directors to locate Senators whose contact details may be outdated.
- Regional Reorganization: Explore combining Regions 4 and 5 while engaging Senators from Gainesville, Keystone, and Jacksonville. Senators from The Villages may choose to remain in Region 6.

2. Future of the Trailer

- Phasing Out: Plan to reduce reliance on the trailer within the next three years as attendance may naturally decline due to aging membership, relocation, and other factors.
- Alcohol Quantities: Assess whether it's necessary to transport such a large supply of alcohol throughout the year.

3. Meeting Structure and Engagement

- Scheduling Concerns: Attendance dropped significantly at the November quarterly meeting following closely on the heels of the August meeting and the October Bash. This pattern may indicate that spacing meetings more effectively is needed.
- Event Consolidation: Consider combining the Florida Jaycee Reunion with an existing event, such as a quarterly conference or the Bash.
- Entertainment Opportunities: Recommend appointing a chairperson to organize consistent activities at conferences, including engaging in Friday night events, Saturday afternoon sessions, and entertainment on Saturday evenings.
- Purpose of Friday Meetings: Question the need for Friday evening board meetings if most reports are deferred to Saturday.

4. Reactivating Jaycee Chapters

- Blueprint for Chartering: Develop a clear process to help Senators charter new Jaycee chapters, using the Ocala chapter as a model.
- Urgent Need for Growth: With only four active Jaycee chapters remaining, our organization's future depends on revitalizing these chapters to generate new Senatorships and ensure long-term sustainability.

Looking Ahead

The Future Directions Committee remains committed to exploring innovative ideas and addressing the challenges that lie ahead. Your participation and feedback are essential to these efforts. Let's work together to keep our organization thriving for generations to come.



Return the Favor

Scott Jacobs #58599
Return the Favor Chair

Friends, Romans, Countrymen, send me your hours. It's time to start planning how we can best help the Florida Jaycees continue being the ones the community turns to when help is needed (and of course, putting that plan into action). This can be done individually, or as a region – every little bit can make a difference.

Let's return to the hours and why I'm continually requesting them. There are a few responses. The first is the most important—our willingness to help. A primary purpose of our organization is to assist the Jaycees. We need to share the dream we have had about the Jaycee organization.

Providing that help is a must when you think about it. The Jaycees are our future. If they heaven forbid, cease to exist, it would mean that aside from the few Lost Senator nominations, there would be nothing new out on the horizon. And we too, would face that cruel fate.

A second reason for logging hours is something a little more “glorious” for us. Come June and the USJCI National Convention, one of the honors to be presented will be the first-ever Michael Bearon Memorial Award recognizing the Most Outstanding Senator based on Returning the Favor. I believe that it would only be fitting that a Florida Senator be the first to capture an award named for a Florida Senator.

There is an Award Form (of course; what would anything in any way related to the Jaycees be without completing the paperwork?). I will be asking Mindy (#79578) to upload it onto the web, so we all know what it will take to make the difference.



Kay Elliot #61747
Foundation President

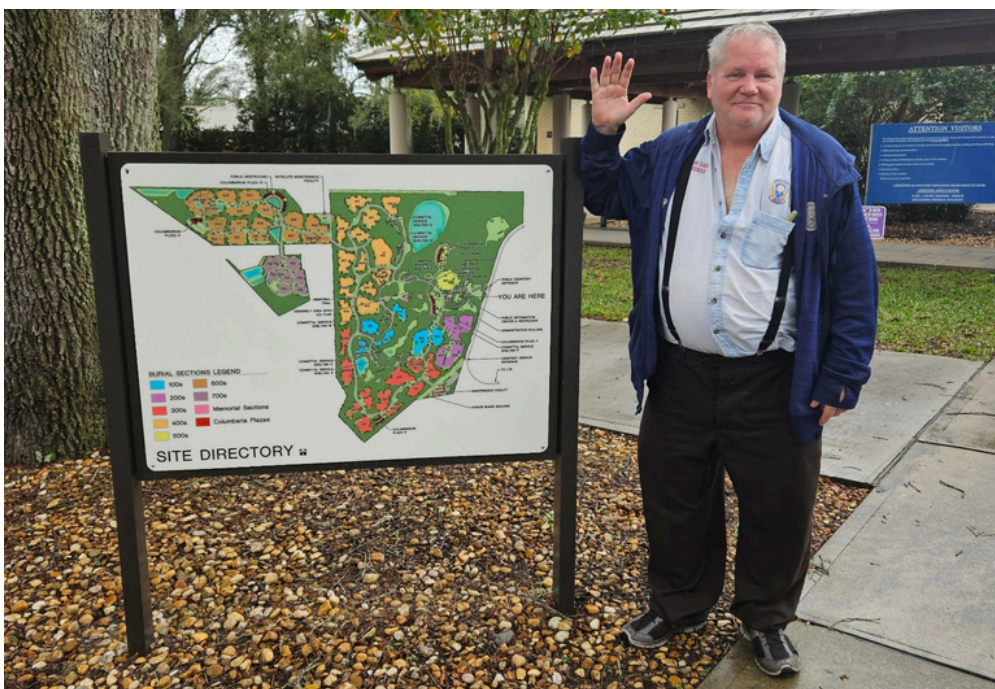
FLORIDA JCI SENATE FOUNDATION

Happy New Year Everyone!! With the holidays now behind us we are looking forward to our February meeting and the **55th Anniversary** of the FL Senate. I'm sure President Mike and 55th Chairperson Jaci have planned a big weekend.

The Foundation welcomes new members receiving Bronze level **Don Duffy, Ken & Nina Nadeau, and Keith Adams. Jim Warren** has reached the Silver level. Congratulations to all. Levels of giving are... Bronze (with shadow box) \$100.00, Silver \$500.00, Gold \$1000.00, Platinum \$2500.00, Diamond \$5000.00, Double Diamond \$6000.00, Triple Diamond \$7500.00 and a named scholarship \$25,000.00. All donations of \$25.00 or more are credited to your account.

Yvonne has reported that scholarship applications are steadily coming in as the deadline is **January 17th**. We ARE currently giving 8 named scholarships. This is also the weekend for Senate Foundation elections at our meeting on Friday evening. Trustees, please let **Jay Edmondson** at JCI41977@outlook.com know if you wish to continue as a Trustee and or run for office. If you would like to be considered for a Trustee position, contact Jay Edmondson.

See you all in Feb. Let's Celebrate!
Kay Elliott, President
Florida JCI Senate Foundation





WREATHS *across* AMERICA

On December 14, the Florida Senators, their families, and friends came together to honor our veterans and their hard work truly paid off. Despite the challenges of fundraising this year—largely due to the tragic aftermath of Hurricane Milton in several areas of the state—our efforts were a success. Thanks to a generous donation from the National USJCI Senate Convention Committee, led by Senator **Cindy Brandel**, we were able to exceed all previous years' sales! Additionally, the Lake Sumter Lions Club made a generous contribution, and fundraisers hosted by **Scott & Stacey Link and Doyle Sewell** significantly boosted our wreath sales.

This year, over 60 participants laid wreaths at Florida National Cemeteries and several local cemeteries. The Boy Scouts were actively involved at the Tallahassee National Cemetery, thanks to the efforts of the **Sutherland family** and their grandson's involvement with the Scouts. Region NVP **Carla Bailey and President Mike Sawyer** also attended the Tallahassee ceremony to honor our veterans.

A special thanks goes to **Michelle Luke**, owner of Hidden Oasis Day Spa in Sebastian, Florida, who supported and promoted the Wreaths Across America project. Michelle attended Family Day on December 7 at Bushnell National Cemetery, where she placed wreaths for her mother and stepfather. Her father is buried at Sarasota National Cemetery. Michelle, married to Senator Rick Luke, is also the sister-in-law of Senator **David Luke**.

Bill Hossman deserves a heartfelt thank-you for assisting with arrangements at Sarasota National Cemetery. Despite a last-minute glitch in parking coordination, Bill's efforts helped ensure the event ran smoothly. The cemetery coordinator, who faced significant challenges, was deeply appreciative of our support and provided many extra parking passes in gratitude.

A big thank-you also goes to **Scott Jacobs**, who organized the South Florida Senators for their participation at South Florida National Cemetery. Scott has been deeply involved in Wreaths Across America since the beginning and has even written an article for the media highlighting why people choose to get involved. He continues to sell RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) shirts, so please support the effort by placing an order!

Wreaths 2024 Total: 257

We're already planning for 2025, so stay tuned for more details on upcoming fundraising efforts!

Peggy Kirby Sewell & Stacey Link
Wreaths Across America

RODEHEAVER BOYS RANCH

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the boys at Rodeheaver Boys Ranch. A special shoutout goes to the Tampa 2024 Committee for their generous donation—it made a big difference!

With the donations, we were able to purchase much-needed sports equipment in partnership with the Jacksonville Jaycees. Additionally, we provided 17 boys with a \$50 Walmart gift card, a game, socks, a toothbrush, toothpaste, and, of course, a candy cane. We also made sure the staff's children weren't left out, gifting them stockings filled with a small gift, candy, and a candy cane.

I'm also thrilled to share that we made a \$1,000 donation to the Jaycee Cottage. During our visit, I learned they recently installed a new roof on the cottage porch—another step in maintaining this vital space.

Thank you to all the Florida Senators and the Jacksonville Jaycees who joined me in December to kick off the holiday season for boys temporarily living away from their families. Your kindness and generosity truly brought joy to these young lives.

Melanie Fickas #77281

